

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Bob Stump, Chairman

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PRESS ADVISORY

*Armed Services Committee to receive testimony on how Iraq acquires
technology necessary to build weapons of mass destruction*

The House Committee on Armed Services today announced details of its third in a series of open hearings on Iraq. At the hearing, expert witnesses on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs (including a defector from Iraq's nuclear weapons program) will testify before the committee on how Iraq acquires the tools, technology, and expertise necessary to build its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

According to the witnesses, Iraq acquired much of its weapons technologies from the United States and its European allies, through both legal and illegal sources, during the 1980s and 1990s. Furthermore, Iraq continues its efforts to obtain technology from western nations today. The committee hopes to answer the questions: Did Iraq's military and WMD programs benefit from U.S. technologies? Is Iraq continuing to improve its military and WMD programs with technologies from industrialized nations? And, what should be done to prevent Iraq from continuing to obtain western technologies for use against the United States and its allies?

The committee began its series of hearings on Iraq on September 10 with a hearing in which former United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) team members testified on the history of Iraq's WMD and missile programs, and U.N. inspection efforts in Iraq. This series continued on September 18, when Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld testified before the committee on U.S. policy towards Iraq.

This ongoing series of hearings is intended to provide a forum in which the committee and the American people may learn about the various issues surrounding Iraq's continued violation of numerous United Nations resolutions, its illicit development of weapons of mass destruction (including nuclear weapons), and the threat that Saddam Hussein poses to the United States, the Middle East, and the international community. Future hearings will be announced on the committee website at: <http://www.house.gov/hasc>.

What: Third of a series of House Armed Services Committee hearings on U.S. policy toward Iraq

Witness: Gary Milhollin (Director, Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control) and Dr. Khidir Hamza (Former Iraqi Nuclear Engineer; Director, Council on Middle Eastern Affairs)

When: 10:00 a.m. on September 19, 2002

Where: 2118 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

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